

**Claims****CLAIMS**

- 5     1. An ankle/foot orthosis comprising a strapping member (11) for a lower leg, and having an inflexible anterior longitudinal stiffener (21), a sole plate (23), and a strut (22) connecting the longitudinal stiffener (21) and the sole plate (23), the strut (22) extending to the sole plate (23) at the outer side thereof, and anterior of the position of the ankle, characterized in that said strut (22) is flexible.
- 10    2. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 1 wherein the flexible portions of the orthosis are manufactured substantially of glass fibre or aramid fibre reinforced resin, and the inflexible portion is manufactured in carbon fibre reinforced resin.
- 15    3. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the rigidity of sole plate (23) varies over the area thereof, portions being inflexible, and portions being flexible so as to give support to the foot whilst allowing bending of the toes.
- 20    4. An ankle/foot orthosis according to any preceding claim wherein the strapping member (11) is adapted to extend around the sides of a leg, and has securing straps adapted to accommodate variation in leg thickness.
- 25    5. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 4 wherein said strapping member (11) is moulded from a soft thermoplastic so as to be mouldable by application of heat
6. An ankle/foot orthosis according to any preceding claim wherein said strut (22) is encased.
- 30    7. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 6 wherein the strut (22) is encased in a sleeve of plastics material.
8. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 7 wherein said sleeve is heat shrinkable so as to mould itself tightly to the contours of the strut (22).

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9. An ankle/foot orthosis according to any preceding claim wherein fasteners (24) are provided whereby the stiffener (21) is movable longitudinally of the strapping member (11).

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10. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 9 wherein said stiffener (21) is on the inside of said strapping member (11).

11. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 10 wherein said stiffener (21) resides in  
10 a channel (19) of the strapping member (11).

12. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 11 wherein said channel (19) is open at the bottom.

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